

Message Text

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USLOSACLANT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 086380

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: POLITICO/MILITARY ASSESSMENTS

REF: USNATO 2172

1. PRINCIPAL US CONCERN IS THAT NATO NOT OVER-FORMALIZE
CRISIS ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS WITH RESULT THAT EFFECTIVE
CONSULTATION COULD BE HAMPERED OR DELAYED BY ATTITUDE OF
ANY ONE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE AT LEVEL BELOW THAT OF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE.

2. COROLLARY TO THIS IS DESIRE TO KEEP CHANNEL OPEN FOR
DIRECT SUBMISSION TO SECRETARY GENERAL BY AMBASSADOR OF ANY
US THREAT ASSESSMENT OR VIEWS IN TIMES OF CRISIS OR TENSION,
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WITHOUT THE NEED TO PROCESS THEM THROUGH A COMMITTEE.

3. WITH THESE OBJECTIVES IN MIND, MISSION IS BEST LOCATED TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF NATO MODALITIES FOR CRISIS ASSESSMENT- WASHINGTON PREFERENCE FOR PROCEDURE WOULD BE FOR AGREEMENT THAT SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD OPEN EACH CRISIS MEETING OF NAC/DPC WITH HIS PERSONAL ASSESSMENT, NOT NECESSARILY PROCESSED THROUGH COMMITTEES. HOWEVER, US COULD ACCEPT EITHER OF PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN PARAS 4 AND 5 OF REFTEL.

4. GIVEN PREVIOUS CRISIS EXPERIENCE, ASSESSMENT MACHINERY PROPOSED IN REFTEL WOULD PROBABLY NOT MEET NATO NEEDS ENTIRELY AND MUST BE SUPPLEMENTAL TO NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO NAC/DPC. HOWEVER, ASSESSMENT MACHINERY MIGHT BE QUITE USEFUL IN CRISES NOT DIRECTLY AFFECTING NATO. ALSO, WE ASSUME ANY ASSESSMENT MACHINERY ESTABLISHED WOULD PROVIDE FOR INPUT BY CEP AND ECONAD REPRESENTATION. KISSINGER

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